



Rapid Gender Analysis: Research Report

March, 2016



Rapid Gender Analysis Report

Background: Drought, worsened by the effects of El-Nino is having a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of Ethiopians, and according to the Government, the number of people that will require food assistance in 2016 has increased from 8.2 million in October 2015 (inter-agency mid Meher seasonal assessment) to 10.2 million in December 2015 (inter-agency November 2015 Meher assessment), making it the largest acutely food insecure population in the world. CARE Ethiopia wanted to better understand the gender dynamics at the household and community level so as to better design interventions to build on the strengths and capacities of drought impacted households. Thus, CARE developed a custom-made rapid participatory gender assessment approach that allowed a diverse staff to collect information rapidly from the most relevant segment of communities in East Hararghe, West Hararghe, South Gondar and Afar zones about the changing gender dynamics in drought impacted households and communities.

Purpose: to learn, explore and in particular to better understand the gender dynamics within the populations CARE Ethiopia serve.

Objectives: To better understand:

- how women, men, girls and boys are affected by the drought,
- the different coping strategies they are using to face the drought situation,
- the impact of the drought on gender dynamics,
- emerging opportunities to shift rigid gender and social norms.

Goal: To increase the capacity of CARE Ethiopia (and its partner's) in exploring the realities faced by drought impacted households and design impact driven participatory emergency response interventions.

Methodology: CARE Ethiopia Emergency Field Staff conducted:

- Focus group discussions with picture codes
- Transect walk / Resource mapping

Picture Code: this tool allows women, boys, girls and men to easily relate to what the pictures represent, and tell their reality as they live it and remember. This tool is applied in focus group discussions with separate men, women, boys and girls groups to help stimulate discussions on how the drought has affected them, how they face the situation (coping mechanism), what new social norms and opportunities are emerging.

Transect Walk/ resource mapping: is a tool used to get on site information on what resources, assets, services and infrastructure exists in the community, how different members of the community access and manage them.

Focus group discussions using the picture code and the transect walk and resource mapping were carried out in four Kebeles in each region for a period of two weeks. The staff received training on Gender in Emergencies (GiE) before the start of the RGA process, received briefings in their field offices before starting the assessments and had a comprehensive workshop and de-briefing process after the RGA.

Data was collected on the following themes:

- Vulnerability and coping mechanisms
- Education and school attendance
- Nutrition/malnutrition
- Migration
- Mobility
- Social norms and practices
- Emerging opportunities
- Availability, access and control over resources

The data collected was only qualitative in order for CARE to focus on social and behavioural changes and perspectives of beneficiaries on gender-specific needs and capacities in relation to the drought.

The workshop: after data collection in each zone was completed, a workshop that lasted one and half day was organized in Addis Ababa with staff who have been involved in the data collection to review the process, analyse the findings and propose recommendations for current and future interventions.

Findings: Four separate RGA reports – one per area in which the RGA was conducted - East Hararghe, West Hararghe, South Gonder zones and Afar region are produced. The report includes secondary data describing the context of each area. Changes in the livelihood of the community because of the drought, vulnerability, coping mechanism, GBV and social norms and practices, availability, access to and control over the resources at the household and community level is extracted from primary data.

Summary (Key findings): Key findings of all the areas are summarized in this section.

Recommendations: Recommendations are given based on the key findings.

East Hararge

Area context: East Hararghe zone is one of administrative zones within the Oromia Regional State. East Haraghe zone is located the in eastern part of the country, in the eastern part of the Oromia Regional State, 501 km from Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. Of the 48,360 km² total zonal land mass, 67.76% is lowland, 24.66% midland and the remaining, 7.67% is highlands. The zone has 19 districts/woredas and population of 3,142,390; 1,595,737 male and 1,546,653 female. East Hararghe zone has bimodal rainfall and two seasonal agricultural periods annually (“Belg” and “Meher” in Amharic and “Arfassa” and “Ganna” in Oromifa, respectively) the success of which are fully dependent on timely and sufficient rainfall. Consequently, the El-Nino phenomenon in 2015 which altered the rain pattern of many parts of the country including East Hararghe Zone, caused 100% failure of the Belg/Arfassa season production which normally contributes 28% of the annual agricultural production for the zone and substantially lowered the Maher/Ganna season production due to delay in rain by two to three weeks.

Changes due to the Drought

Livelihood: The drought has affected the people whose livelihoods are dependent on agriculture. The land, water sources and pasture are affected by the drought.

The elders, women, men, boys and girls, pregnant and lactating mothers are vulnerable to several types of problems with varying degrees. Men go to nearby towns looking for work while the women stay in their neighbourhoods taking care of their children. The women also travel long distance to fetch water since there is lack of water in the area due to the drought.

Girls do not often travel to towns in fear of gender based violence (GBV). Girls may migrate to other neighbouring kebeles and towns to work as housemaids. Most of the girls that leave for the towns to be housemaids often go without the consent of the family. However, their intent is to improve the lives of their families.

Female headed households (FHHS) are most affected than the Male Headed Household (MHHS) because all the burden to support the family falls on the shoulders of the women. However, they cannot travel far away in search of jobs. In MHHS, while women take care of household tasks, the men go out to look for work and food. Also, men have the privilege to eat outside their homes. Women and children may not have access to food at home. So, they are coerced to wait for the man to bring them something to eat. Thus, the men are psychologically burdened because of unavailability of food which they would provide to their families. The water shortage exempted from being washed and the community is vulnerable to sanitation related health problems.

School: Many students have been forced to drop out of school due to the need to labour at home; girls in particular have had to drop out or be absent from school because they are obliged to take care of young siblings when the mother is busy. Girls assist their mothers in household chores, travel long distance to fetch water and feed livestock and attend to other domestic chores. Boys do the same for their fathers by travelling to other places looking for daily labour. Households also have financial difficulty to purchase exercise books, pens and other materials for students. Unlike unaffected families, most drought affected families are putting their resources towards feeding the family rather than purchasing school materials.

Nutrition: Culturally, priority of feeding is given to the husband, then to children and lastly to women. When drought affects the economy of the community, it results in families having less resources to provide quality food in households. This situation has the potential to lead to malnutrition which primarily affects children, lactating and pregnant women. But, during the drought, children - especially those who are breastfed- are given feeding priority. But sometimes, mothers will leave the children at home to travel to collect fire wood and fetch water or their breasts would fail to produce sufficient amount of breast milk as they are not having enough to eat due to the drought.

GBV & Social Norms and Practices: Domestic violence and early marriage are present in this area. Wife beating is present in the community. Women focus group discussion (FGD) participants said, "Since there is no money to take the violated women to hospitals, they may end up suffering." Most of the time, the major cause of the violence is disagreements between husbands and wives on money management. Men get upset since they don't chew Chat as often as they used to; which would also lead them to violence. Conflicts over resources are common between wives and husbands in polygamous families. Women do not also travel farther to market centres and to seek daily labour due to fear of being victimized by violence.

Coping Mechanisms: some FHHS are supported by Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) as it provides them with a means of financial income, better control and a means of interaction with other women in the community. Women in the community are involved in petty trade such as, selling Chat, cooked cereals (Nifro), fire wood and coal and in return they buy food for the family. Some of the women who has the least income amongst the community also go to town to work as daily labourers by carrying water containers for money. Some others produce handcrafts (Sifet) whenever there is time to spare, usually at night, and sell it for income. Men do labour work or travel to distant places as daily labourers. They transport Chat from farm to the market or collect stones used for construction and carry them to vehicles. Both men and women work on removing impurities of commercial corn brought by traders.

Access to Resources: Available resources in the area are Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA), water provided by the government using water tanker trucks and food aid through the Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP). Women seeking assistance on security problems can report to the Woreda Women and Children Office, Kebele level task force or security bodies at Kebele level. Men seeking security assistance can report to the Kebele level task force, Woreda police and security bodies at Kebele levels.

West Hararge

Area context: West Hararghe Zone is one of 18 Zones of Oromia Regional State which is subdivided into 14 districts and 2 administrative towns. West Hararghe zone is bordered by East Shewa and Arsi zone in the West, Bale zone in the South, East Hararghe zone in the East, Somali regional state in the north and Afar regional state in the north west. The total population residing in the Zone is 2,234,078 out of which 1,089,277 are female while 1,144,801 are male. The livelihood of 85 percent of the population depends on agriculture while 15 percent is based on various income generating activities such as petty trading, off farm activities, sale of daily labour and charcoal. West Hararghe has two rainy seasons (Belg and Meher). There was no Belg rainfall in 2015

and the crop production and the pasture development was much below normal resulting in zero agricultural production and death of many animals. Additionally, although the Meher season rainfall onset is normal, the amount and distribution is erratic and much below normal.

Changes because of the Drought

Livelihood: Because of the drought, agricultural production and productivity has been low, crops have dried up in fields and cattle are dying due to shortages of animal fodder and water. Children under seven years of age, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly people, and vulnerable groups of society are experiencing shortage of food and water.

Farming and taking cattle out for grazing and watering tends to be men's role whereas fetching water and taking care of household tasks are women's role. This routine has not been changed by the drought. The men still farm even though they do not harvest as much as they previously did. The women continue fetching water by waiting in long line ups due to the current drought. Sometimes, conflict happens between women waiting in queues to get water and in order to avoid this conflict, some women prefer to fetch water at night.

Widows and women in polygamous family are most affected by the drought since they are either dependent on their husbands for resources or simply do not have access to resources. Husbands in polygamous families might allocate more resources to the wives they favour or distribute resources unequally.

FHHS are also vulnerable since their farmland is not properly ploughed. As a result, their harvest production is smaller.

Most of the time, men and boys migrate to nearby towns looking for daily labor jobs while women and girls take care of household tasks, as well as attend children and the elderly. The migration of men increases the burden on women since they also need to take over the economic and social responsibilities that used to be handled by the husbands. Safety is also another concern for women, girls and children due to gender based violence and possibility of attack by wild animals that inhabit the area.

The community is predominantly Muslim. While Chat chewing is common in the society, it has decreased due to the drought.

Also, the drought has resulted in decrease of social interaction and increase in the incident of theft.

School: School absenteeism and dropouts are increasing because of the drought since students do not have food to eat at home. More girls have become absent from school in order to fetch water from far away, trade Chat and fuel wood or care for siblings at home. Some students - both boys and girls - have dropped out of school due to lack of school materials.

Nutrition: Children and also lactating and pregnant women in the village are affected by malnutrition since the frequency of feeding and the amount of food consumed has decreased. The elderly, boys and girls and men are also affected by the nutrition problem, although differently. Women could be the most affected by different health problems and malnutrition since they give priority to their children and husbands. Men and children under three years eat first, followed by boys while women and girls eat last. The frequency of breast feeding has decreased since women are busy with other activities outside home such as collecting fire wood, fetching water and trying to generate income through petty trading activities.

There are also cultural restrictions on women and girls as to what they can and cannot eat. For example, women and girls are not allowed to eat food prepared from animal's tongue, brisket, head, hump and more.

GBV & Social Norms and Practices: Marrying off underage girls is carried out by illegal “local agents.” Girls often get married before they reach adolescence and take on household responsibilities. Even though the government and traditional protection laws are present, women and girls feel that threat of sexual violence hovering as they walk alone in the surrounding.

Coping Mechanisms: The women and girls engage in different petty trades, daily labour like washing clothes, fetching water, goat herding, weeding, different hand crafts like weaving, hair making, wood and charcoal selling and even beggary. Men and boys engage in cattle trade, migration and daily labour like compost transportation. Girls may get married or migrate to other towns to get hired as house maids in order to support their families. Women and girls are skilled in saving, petty trade, pottery making where as men and boys have good farming skill and involve in daily labour.

Access to Resources: People access food through food aid or markets or share with each other, since the harvest from their land is very minimal.

Afar

Area Context : Afar Region is located in northeastern lowlands of Ethiopia, bordering Djibouti to the East, Eritrea to the North. Like the other pastoralist areas of Ethiopia, Afar region is highly vulnerable to natural and human made crises that affect livestock production, and threaten the food security and the livelihoods of people. The people primarily depend on livestock and livestock products to make their livelihoods. As such, their capital assets and the livestock production system rely on timely and adequate amount of rainy seasons in Afar named “sugum” and “karam,” which covers mid-February to April and July to mid-September, respectively.

The consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall of 2014 “karam” rains, and also 2015 “sugum” rains, have led to poor rangeland and livestock body conditions. Poor rainfall was persistent in 2014, affecting pasture regeneration, livestock conception and calving and rain-fed farming activities for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. The “karam” rains of 2015 are late, further exacerbating the situation.

Changes because of the Drought

Livelihood: Water points are dried up because of the drought. People travel long distances in search of water for animals as well as for household consumption. The degree of the impact the drought resulted depends on the age of the affected people and the gender dynamics. The most vulnerable groups are children. However, pregnant and lactating women are also vulnerable since they are not able to travel long distances to search for food. Water shortage, health and nutrition problems are factors for vulnerability. Some of the community members have skills in small scale irrigation. However, the current drought crisis has resulted in drying up of crops in fields.

Among domestic animals, cattles are also most affected than shoaat (sheep and goat). Even if not as much as shoaat, Camels are also affected. Male FGD participants said, “For the sake of our livestock, we are forced to migrate to the neighbour woreda or kebele where good pasture and water is available. And therefore, we encountered conflict with the communities we compete with for resources. Our cattle were looted by some community members who are not happy about our migration to thier area. This happened when we went to the Amhara Region, the special zone of Caffa in Oromia Region or Woladi area.”

Health is endangered for diseases like diarrhoea due to scarcity, pollution, and contamination of water. Due to the drought, animal products like milk and butter which would have been used as food sources for pastoralists are reduced. The environment which is dustier due to the drought causes airborne disease. There are also reported cases of measles.

Women face specific challenges during the drought, e.g. they continue to have responsibilities including breast feeding, firewood collection, food preparation, travelling long distances to fetch water on daily basis, and going to the mills. Girls help their mothers and share their responsibilities partly. In addition, they watch over cattle or shoats. During this period girls eat less frequently and sometimes go whole days without food. Boys travel long distances in search of pasture and water for their livestock which makes them live through food shortage and lack of water. The drought may cause anxiety on men since they will be worried to overcome the situation or rebuild the depleted household assets.

The women in polygamous households, locally called (Hagoyita) are more vulnerable as the resource distribution between households is not equal. Though it depends on the economic status of couples, most of the time women in polygamous marriages are more affected by drought than others because there are more people in the family amongst which the resources have to be divided. FHHS are also more affected by the drought than MHHS because all the burden to support the family falls on the women.

If water and pasture is unavailable, pastoralists inevitably migrate to a place where there is water and pasture available. In Afar, people share information ('Dagu' in local language) regarding where water and pasture are available. Children, women, elders and disabled people stay at home since they cannot travel to long distances. Migration also has various impact on women. The work load increases since they transport their house on donkeys and reconstruct it at the settlement site while continuing to fetch water, collect firewood and cook food. Pregnant women may not get access to health service; and they are vulnerable to be robbed of their property.

School: Boys and girls school dropout is high during drought. Although the school attendance of both boys and girls can be affected due to shortage of water, food and other supplies, girls are more challenged since they wake up early in the morning to travel long distances to search for water. By the time they return home after fetching water, it would already be past school time. Also, girls are expected to cover household tasks along with their mothers. Shortage of school materials like pen, exercise book, and uniform is another reason for students' dropout and absenteeism. Especially at Kebele level, secondary school is not available close to their homes that girls are subjected to discontinue their high school education. It may be considered inconvenient and unnecessary for girls to travel long distances and spend extended time away for the purpose of education.

Nutrition: Women are affected by nutritional problems due to shortage of food, pregnancy and heavy work load. If women's health is impaired then their children would not also get appropriate nutrition. Food priority is given for young children and husbands followed by boys and girls. Women are at the bottom of the list. Infants are more dependent on animal milk and breast milk than other children. During the drought the amount of milk available is not sufficient as cows are not receiving sufficient water and pasture. Children may also not be fed properly as mothers have lesser time to spend with their children while attending to their workloads. As a result, children may suffer from malnutrition. Children under five years of age are also affected by drinking polluted water and can acquire diarrhoea. The recurrent health problem could make children stunted. Pregnant and lactating women do not get appropriate food at appropriate intervals. As a result, the foetus or infant could be affected by malnourishment in the womb and it can continue after birth. FHHS are affected due to depletion of livelihood asset for basic subsistence. Boys are considered young and strong enough to confront hardship. Hence, they might migrate with camels and as a result endure substantial food shortage.

GBV & Social Norms and Practices: chewing chat is a common practice in Afar although it has now reduced because of the drought. As it is customary in the Afar community, it is women who construct the family's house. Women and girls are at risk of GBV as they move from place to place. Child/early marriage to wealthy men exist though it is somewhat lesser now a days. The most worrying practice in Afar is 'Mira' whereby it is considered normal for men to come into women's homes when their husbands are away and to rape/have sex with them. With more men migrating, this practice is expected to increase and is a concerning form of GBV.

Access to resources: People have access to food from government aid and market. But, pregnant women do not get proper treatment and follow up from health stations due to the distance, therefore, they are exposed to anaemia and other pregnancy related problems.

Coping mechanisms: Some of the current coping mechanisms include leasing camel for transportation of commercial commodities, moving to Djibouti, selling of livestock and buying NIDO (canned milk) for HH consumption as a substitute for cow milk, consuming maize without milk, skipping meals, decreasing quantity of food consumed and eating boiled and dried coffee locally called “Hashara” as food. Some have skills of cultivating small scale farming through irrigation from Dawe River. However, currently the harvested crops have dried-out. Some people migrate toward pasture and water sources or engage in petty trade, and also wood collection for selling.

Women have the capacity to properly manage the available food in the house. They are also able to sell wood, use Unga (a plant that grows in the area) to make ornaments, bed (locally called Aloyita), milking utensils (locally called Ayini) and traditional Afar house preparation materials. Men also have skills of preparing ornaments like milk storage utensils (locally called Kora) and milking utensils called Koba. Additionally, they work as daily labourer as do boys who work on sugar cane plantations or road construction by migrating to nearby towns. Girls follow their mother’s footsteps to also cope with the drought.

South Gondar

Area Context: South Gondar Zone is one of the administrative zones within Ethiopia’s Amhara National Regional state. It is located in the North-Western part of the country and is the centre of the regional state, 660 km from the capital, Addis Ababa. The zone covers 14,298.75 km² of which 3% is forest, 36% highland, 51% semi highland and 10% is lowland. This zone is currently characterized by erratic rainfall and recurrent failure of crop. The zone has 15 districts/woredas (10 rural and 5 semi-urban) and 2,435,345 inhabitants (1,224,736 male and 1,210,609 female). The average annual rainfall of South Gondar zone ranges between 800 and 1600 mm, with considerable spatial and temporal variability in quantities and distribution. The average annual temperature ranges between 6 and 29°C.

Rural communities in South Gondor are suffering from chronic food insecurity due to cumulative effect of various factors including erratic rains due to the El Nino affect, small landholdings, highly degraded farmlands, infertile soil, pest infestation and livestock disease and malaria. Out of the 10 rural woredas in South Gondar, four - Ebinate, Simada, Lay Gayint and Tach Gayint are highly affected by the drought.

Changes because of the Drought

Livelihood: Because of the drought, there is shortage of water and food and the land has become dry. Crop production of sorghum, teff, bean, chick pea, and more are affected. The cattle are also suffering from lack of feed and water. Women, men, boys and girls are all affected by the drought but the elderly, mothers and children are most vulnerable. The elderly do not have the capacity to go out and work; mothers are not able to leave their children and migrate to seek income. Pregnant and lactating women are also vulnerable.

Women and girls fetch water from the river by traveling more than two hours. As a result, girls are either late or absent from school. Men and boys migrate to different areas to find feed and water for animals or looking for employment. As a result, they may face labour exploitation, unemployment and be ailed with diseases like malaria. Girls who migrate also face various hardship, dropout from school and labour exploitation.

FHHS that engage in small trade such as selling Tella (local drink) are unable to secure their business because of their responsibility of managing their households. They are also unable to migrate to different areas as they fear to depart from their residential area or because travelling alone becomes more stressful. FHHS plough their land with the support of other people. Regardless, because of the draught their land did not produce much harvest. Thus, they are very much stressed since they are unable to feed their dependents.

Furthermore, because of shortage of water, the community is vulnerable to waterborne diseases.

School: drought affects school attendance of boys and girls. Even though the government provides school materials, students are absent from school because they cannot attend school with an empty stomach. Some students miss school as they travel to other towns looking for work. The other reason for school absenteeism is the increased amount of time spent in search of water and grazing land for cattle by girls and boys respectively.

Nutrition: Mothers give feeding priority to their young children and husbands followed by girls. Therefore, women eat last. Pregnant and lactating mothers can be vulnerable to malnutrition which in turn affects their children, primarily infants. Boys in FGD said, at HH level, "We share one injera for three without any stew." Previously, the husbands used to eat first. The drought made it so that, it is now children who eat first. There are people who do not eat the meat of black chicken, sheep and goat for cultural reasons. There are also people who do not eat the meat of an animal unless they see it being slaughtered. Some others do not eat the heart and kidney of animals because they believe that eating these organs will cause their teeth to fall out. Some of these traditional beliefs can affect their eating habit and in turn their health.

GBV & Social Norms and Practices: Alcohol is consumed in this society particularly by men but its consumption has decreased because of the drought. Theft in general and specifically of cattle and Teff (the staple grain) is increasing. Divorce rate has increased and social interaction has decreased. This has impacted women. There is no polygamy in the area. However, having an informal wife "wushima" is rarely observed in the area. Despite the government's effort, child (early) marriage is practiced in the area. However, it is done without wedding ceremony due to the drought. Girls drop out of school to get married as well.

Access to Resources: People access food rations provided by CARE and also the government. Except for Teff, other food items are available on the market even if the community cannot buy due to shortage of money.

Coping Mechanisms: Some of the coping mechanisms include decreasing frequency of meals especially by women, selling of animals (such as cattle, goat and sheep), utilizing government aid and taking loans from Amhara Credit and Saving Association and from their VSLA. Boys get employment in road construction or produce charcoal to sell and girls get daily labour jobs like fetching and selling water.

Summary (Key findings)

The key findings of the assessment are summarized below:

Changes because of the Drought

Livelihood: From the above findings, we can understand that there are common (key) findings in each Region. In all regions, the drought has affected the productivity of the land, water sources and pastures such that agricultural output was limited, water points dried up and forage did not regenerate. This affects the livelihood of every member of the community (men, women, boys and girls) in different ways although the impact has varies degrees.

To save the lives of livestock, men and boys are forced to migrate to the neighbouring Woreda or Kebele where there is good pasture and water. As a result, they may encounter conflict with the neighbouring community as they are competing for limited resources. In addition, men and boys migrate to other towns in search of jobs while the women stay in their neighbourhoods taking care of the household. This is highly challenging to women as they have to cope with their domestic workload, take on the chores usually managed by the men, and try to provide for their dependents during the drought. Men also are psychologically burdened because of unavailability of food to provide for their family.

The elderly, children, pregnant and lactating mothers are most vulnerable to food and water scarcity since they are not able to travel long distance to search for and fetch water and food.

Mostly girls help their mothers and share their mothers' household chores such as fetching water, collecting firewood and preparing food. Women and girls travel long distances to fetch water (East Hararge, Afar and South Gondar) or wait in long lines or fight to get water (West Hararge). In order to avoid the long queus and conflict that are faced during the day, some girls and women choose to fetch water at night. The chance for violence against girls and women at night is increased as they are more vulnerable during their walks to and from the water point while less people are around.

In all areas of the study, there is the tendency for girls to migrate to other towns to find employment so as to economically contribute to their family.

In all areas, FHHs are the most affected compared with MHHs because of the burden to support the family and the restriction of not being able to leave in search of work.

Women who live in polygamous families in Afar, East and West Hararge are also most vulnerable since their life depends on the favour of their husband. The husbands share the limited resource they could access during the drought with the family they favour most. In South Gondar area, there is no polygamy. But, occasionally men can have informal/unofficial wife "wushima."

Health is endangered by water scarcity, pollution, and contamination. In all areas studied, lack of safe and clean water cause health problems particularly, diarrhoea. The community is vulnerable to sanitation related health problems as well. Currently, in Afar, there is a measles problem and the community hasn't got any solution for it.

The other big change the drought resulted is increase in theft and conflict. People are stealing cattle and Teff and fight over limited resources including pasture and water.

School: School absenteeism and dropouts are increasing because of the drought. More and more girls than boys are absent from school as they are spending more time on domestic responsibilities such as fetching water, caring for younger siblings at home and trying to generate income through trading hat and wood for fuel. Boys and girls (Afar and East and West Hararghe) are dropping out of school due to lack of school materials. Boys travel long distances to search for pasture and water for livestock or migrate to other towns to pursue work as daily labourer which affects their school attendance.

Nutrition: in all the areas, boys, girls, men, women, elderly and children are affected by malnutrition because of the drought. Women could be most affected by different health problems and can be malnourished since they give priority for their children and husbands. In all areas, men and children under the age of three eat first in the family, boys and girls next and women eat last. Thus, lactating and pregnant women can be severely affected by malnutrition. In some areas like West Hararghe and South Gondar, women have some cultural restrictions from eating certain food types.

In almost all the studied communities, infants depend on their mothers' breast milk or cow milk for food source. Because of the drought, the supply of milk from both their mothers and cattle is reduced or the frequency of breast feeding may have reduced due to the busy schedule of their mothers. These circumstances increase the chance of experiencing malnutrition.

Furthermore, some of the coping mechanism in all areas is either to reduce food consumption frequency, to eat single component of a meal (for example, injera without stew or maize without milk) and to decrease the amount of the food consumed. This increases the chance of malnutrition amongst people, particularly of the most vulnerable in the communities.

GBV & Social Norms and Practices: Chat chewing is a common practice in Afar, East and West Hararghe although there is some reduction because of the drought. Drinking alcohol is common practice in South Gondar. In East Hararghe, the finding shows that men get upset as they do not get Chat as often as they used to. This would also be one reason to lead to domestic quarrels/violence. Conflicts over resources between wives and husbands in polygamous family can also be a cause for domestic violence. However, this needs further assessment. Furthermore, it would be relevant to assess whether conflict is created between husband and wife in other areas (Afar and west Hararghe) because of Chat.

In all areas, safety/protection is also another issue for women, girls and children when men and boys are away. Women and girls can't move freely due to fear of violence and attack by wild animals like hyena and tiger in West Hararghe.

Early/child marriage is practiced in all areas although there is no evidence of being exacerbated by the drought. In South Gondar, the finding shows that child/early marriage is practiced without the wedding ceremony because of the drought.

In Afar, the most worrying practice is 'Mira' whereby it is seen as normal in communities for men to come into women's homes when their husbands are away and to rape/have sex with them. With more men migrating, this practice is expected to increase and is a concerning form of GBV.

Coping Mechanisms: in all areas studied, women are involved in petty trade as a coping mechanism. Women in East Hararghe make handicraft "sifet," sell Chat, cooked cereals (Nifro), fire wood and charcoal. Other skills women are utilizing to earn some income in West Hararghe are pottery making, weaving and braiding hair. Women are also involved in daily labour such as washing clothes, fetching water, goat herding and weeding. In Afar, women have a skill to prepare ornament from Unga. Girls mostly share their mothers' role but rarely migrate to other towns to get hired as a house maid and support the family.

Men and boys use migration as a coping mechanism. In addition, they are involved in daily labour or cattle trade or rent their camel for transportation of commercial commodities in Afar.

Access to resources:

- food rations by CARE and the government
- Village Saving and Credit Association

Recommendations

- WASH and Food assistance needs to be prioritised as an intervention and CARE Ethiopia will continue to provide WASH interventions, including rehabilitation of water supplies and water trucking, in complement with government activities. Food assistance will target vulnerable groups and focus on quality food distribution.
- Prevention and response to GBV: Depending on the region, there is a need to sensitise communities on harmful activities that are increasing due to the drought e.g. the illegal brokers who are playing a part in arranging early marriages and working with girls who are migrating. It is recommended that existing VSLA and SAA activities provide sensitisation on GBV and young men/boys who are migrating/have migrated can participate in sensitisation sessions to understand protection risks that they are facing.
- Coordination with agencies/NGOs – It is recommended for better collaboration between NGOs and UN agencies particularly to advocate to the government to crack down on illegal brokers who are arranging early marriages
- It is recommended to engage men in SAA because of the tensions and anxiety that men are facing due to providing for their households, managing polygamous households and migration. Men should not be excluded from humanitarian interventions that target the most vulnerable as they are facing high levels of anxiety and also have to reduce their usual coping mechanisms (such as chat, alcohol etc.) which can contribute to household tensions
- Harmful traditional practices, such as Mira in the Afar region, which are increasing due to the drought need to be considered in community dialogues – this needs a long term approach in sensitisation and dialogues for communities to recognise the harmful impact of such practices
- Women’s enhanced participation in decision-making – Due to migration and increasing numbers of female headed households, more support is needed for women to participate in communities and have more active roles in decision-making. This can include capacity-building for women’s associations, grassroots organisations and it is recommended to work with community leaders to ensure that female headed households are not denied access to resources.



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Rapid Gender Analysis Report

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About CARE: Founded in 1945, CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. CARE started working in Ethiopia in 1984 in response to severe drought and famine that devastated the population and claimed the lives of nearly one million people. Since then, the organization's activities have expanded to address the root causes of poverty and vulnerability. To learn more, visit www.care-international.org.